Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Mobile, Alabama

Profile of Drug Indicators

January 2003

ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Mobile, Alabama

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics[1]
- Population (2000 Census): 198,915
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 49.8% white; 46.1% black/African American; 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.5% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.1% other race; 0.9% two or more races; 1.4% Hispanic/Latino (any race)
- Mobile is located in Mobile County.

Politics
- Mayor: Michael Dow[2]
- City Council (Districts 1-7, respectively): Fredrick Richardson, Jr.; Thomas Sullivan (Vice President); Clinton Johnson; Ben Brooks, III; Reggie Copeland, Sr. (President); Connie Hudson; Stephen Nodine[3]
- Chief of Police: Samuel Cochran[4]
- Mobile County Sheriff: Jack Tillman[5]

Programs/Initiatives
- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)[6]
  Designated in 1996, the Gulf Coast HIDTA is responsible for areas of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, including Mobile County. The purpose of the Gulf Coast HIDTA is to measurably reduce violent drug trafficking in the region and to reduce the impact of Gulf Coast drug trafficking on other parts of the United States.
- Integrated Drug Enforcement Assistance (IDEA) Program[7]
  The Mobile/Prichard area of Alabama is part of the second phase of the Drug Enforcement Administration's IDEA program. The purpose of the program is to provide the Mobile/Prichard area with long-term support in developing and implementing prevention and treatment programs. The basis for IDEA is to link the efforts of law enforcement and community coalitions.
- Partnership for a Drug-Free Mobile[8]
  The Partnership for a Drug-Free Mobile is a public-private alliance of business, advertising, and media leaders working together to reduce substance use in Mobile with the use of a media campaign.

Federal Funding
- Drug-Free Communities Support Program[9]
  From FY 1998 when Drug-Free Communities funding was first available, to FY 2002 when the most recent grants were awarded, no community coalitions in Mobile have ever received funding through this program.
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed[10]
  One site in Mobile has been officially recognized and received Federal funding as a Weed and Seed site.

- There were no Mobile recipients of the FY 2001 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Discretionary Funds.[11]
- There were no Mobile recipients of the FY 2002 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant.[12]
- There were no Mobile recipients of the FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant.[13]
- FY 2001 Office of Justice Programs and COPS Grant amounts received in Mobile:[14]
  - Discretionary: $2,120,477
  - Formula: $543,538
- FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant amount received in Mobile:[15]
  - $200,000 to the Dauphin Gate Apartments

Crime and Drug-Related Crime
- From January to September 2002, there were 32 homicides known to the Mobile police. During full year 2001, there were 42 homicides known to police.[16]

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, 1998-September 2002

Offense	Full Year 1998	Full Year 1999	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	Jan.-Sept. 2002
Homicide	36	37	20	42	32
Rape	68	56	54	95	69
Robbery	878	941	895	840	602
Aggravated assault	501	474	521	553	410
Burglary	4,429	4,182	3,607	4,653	2,980
Larceny	10,551	10,593	10,996	12,284	8,543
Motor vehicle theft	1,911	1,514	1,516	1,522	1,156
Total index offenses	18,374	17,797	17,609	19,989	13,792

- From July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002, the Mobile Drug Task Force made 174 arrests.[17]
- During 2001, members of the Mobile Police Department's Street Level Interdiction Drug Enforcement (SLIDE) program made 882 arrests.[18]
- The Mobile Police Department made 52 arrests in 2001 involving crystal methamphetamine.[19]
- In 2001, the Mobile County Street Enforcement Narcotics Team investigated 173 cases and made 159 arrests. During 2000, this Team investigated 178 cases.[20]

Drugs
- Marijuana
  The drug of choice in the Gulf Coast HIDTA region is marijuana.[21]
- Club Drugs
  The popularity of club drugs, such as MDMA, LSD, and GHB, is on the rise throughout the Gulf Coast HIDTA.[22]
- Other Drugs
  The abuse of OxyContin has emerged as a significant problem across the Gulf Coast HIDTA region.

Juveniles
➢ During 2001, there were 336 juvenile arrests in Mobile for narcotic violations. This is up from 259 juvenile narcotic arrests in 2000.[23]

Number of Juvenile Arrests, Mobile, 1997-2001

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Homicide	1	5	0	1	1
Rape	2	3	5	1	2
Robbery	65	67	72	68	47
Aggravated assault	54	79	49	71	74
Burglary	178	119	120	173	165
Larceny	870	615	564	598	749
Vehicle theft	26	14	44	17	49
Arson	1	3	2	0	4
Sex offenses	18	18	15	15	8
Narcotics	233	274	279	259	336
Weapon offenses	60	49	52	45	74
Stolen property	9	9	25	33	39
Disorderly conduct	338	359	370	310	46
Total	1,855	1,614	1,597	1,591	1,594

Enforcement
➢ Street Level Interdiction Drug Enforcement (SLIDE)[24]
  SLIDE is an initiative of the Mobile Police Department's Narcotics and Vice Unit. The purpose of SLIDE is to target Mobile's "hot spots" where illegal drug activity occurs.
➢ Mobile County Street Enforcement Narcotics Team (MCSENT)[25]
  MCSENT is a multi-jurisdictional drug interdiction team that targets the illegal distribution of drugs, with a focus on large-scale drug organizations.
➢ Gulf Coast HIDTA initiative found in Mobile:
  • Mobile/Baldwin Counties Task Force: Members of this task force target major drug trafficking, money laundering organizations operating in the Mobile area.[26]
  • Joint Drug Intelligence Group (JDIG): The purpose of this FBI-led initiative, which is part of the Mobile/Baldwin Counties Task Force, is to support ongoing investigations in the Mobile/Baldwin County area.[27]
➢ As of October 31, 2001, there were 678 full-time law enforcement employees in Mobile (515 officers and 163 civilians).[28]

Trafficking and Seizures
➢ From July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002, MCSENT seized 18 vehicles, 32 grams of cocaine, and 37,100 grams of marijuana.[29]
➢ The Mobile Drug Task Force seized 133 grams of crack cocaine from July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002.[30]

Amount of Drugs Seized, Mobile Drug Task Force, July 2001-June 2002

Drug Seized	Amount Seized
Cocaine	30
Crack cocaine	133
Cannabis	37,056
Crystal methamphetamine	17
Other drugs	2,350
Total	39,586

➢ From July 2001 to June 2002, the Mobile Drug Task Force eradicated 29 marijuana plants valued at $58,000.[31]
➢ The Mobile Drug Task Force also seized 42 weapons from July 2001 to June 2002.[32]

Courts
➢ Drug Courts[33]
As of January 8, 2003, there was one drug court in Mobile that has been operating for more than two years. There were no additional drug courts in existence or being planned in Mobile.

Treatment
➢ Demand Treatment![34]
In 2001, Mobile was selected as one of sixteen local city partners nationwide for the Demand Treatment! initiative. The goal of the initiative is to increase the number of people who receive alcohol and drug brief interventions and quality treatment.
➢ In March 2001, there were eight treatment programs/facilities in Mobile.[35]
➢ As of January 2001, there were 250 people in publicly funded treatment and 25 people on waiting lists for treatment in Mobile.[36]

Sources

[1] U.S. Census Bureau Web site: http://www.census.gov
[2] Mobile Mayor Web site: http://www.cityofmobile.org/html/cityofficials/dow.php
[3] Mobile Elected Officials Web site: http://www.cityofmobile.org/html/cityofficials/elected.php
[4] Mobile Police Department Web site: http://www.cityofmobile.org/html/departments/police/index2.shtml
[5] Mobile County Sheriff's Office Web site: http://www.mobileso.com/
[6] Office of National Drug Control Policy, Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_gulf.html
[7] Drug Enforcement Administration Press Release, "Innovative Anti-Drug Program in Alabama," December 11, 2002: http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/newsrel/neworleans121102.html
[8] Partnership for a Drug-Free Mobile Web site: http://www.cityofmobile.org/html/drugfree/index.php
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[10] Executive Office for Weed and Seed Data Center Web site, Alabama section: http://www.weedandseeddatacenter.org/alabama.html
[11] Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, FY 2001 Discretionary Funds Summary, Alabama: http://www.samhsa.gov/funding/content/states01/al.htm

[12] Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *FY 2002 Methamphetamine Grant Announcement*, November 14, 2002:
http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/GrantAnnounce/meth_grantees.pdf

[13] Bureau of Justice Assistance Web site, FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grants:
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[14] Office of Justice Programs, FY 2001 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services Grants, Alabama: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fy2001grants/map/al.htm

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[17] Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, *Alabama War on Drugs 2002 Annual Report*

[18] Mobile Police Department, *2001 Annual Report*:
http://www.cityofmobile.org/html/departments/police/AnnualReport.pdf

[19] Ibid.

[20] Ibid.

[21] Office of National Drug Control Policy, *National Drug Control Strategy: High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program Annual Report*, December 2002

[22] Ibid.

[23] Mobile Police Department, *2001 Annual Report*:
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[24] Ibid.

[25] Ibid.

[26] Office of National Drug Control Policy, Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site:
http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_gulf.html

[27] Office of National Drug Control Policy, *National Drug Control Strategy: High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program Annual Report*, December 2002

[28] Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2001*, October 2002:
http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/01cius.htm

[29] Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, *Alabama War on Drugs 2002 Annual Report*

[30] Ibid.

[31] Ibid.

[32] Ibid.

[33] Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, January 8, 2003

[34] Drug Education Council, Inc., Demand Treatment! Initiative:
http://www.drugeducation.org/New_Folder/ndemandtreatment.html

[35] Join Together, Demand Treatment! Mobile/Mobile County, Alabama:
http://www.jointogether.org/sa/action/dt/program/partners/city2001/strat_mobile.pdf

[36] Ibid.

This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the National Criminal Justice Reference Service. For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues contact: